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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY
USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT
Estonian Oil Shale Industry, 1951-1955.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Oil Shale Mining

2. Table 1 reflects the development of oil shale mining during the years 1951-1955.

Table 1.

Output in thousands of Metric Tons

Mine	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955[x]
Group I. Mines of the Trust "Eesti Polevkivi"					
Kukruse	875	1.050	969	990	1,130
Kava	852	1.019	904	875	1.080
Kava-2	1.094	919	917	875[d]	900[d]
Viivikonna	230[d]	335[d]	440[d]	440[d]	500[d]
Mine No. 10	537	882	982	846[d]	985[d]
Mine No. 8	(160)[xx]	281	346	304[d]	342[d]
Mine No. 6	570	780	745	797	800[d]
Mine No. 4	-	-	120	265	468
Mine No. 2	(300)[xx]	267	347	452	587
Total group I.	4.618	5.533	5.770	5.844	6.792

Mine	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955x
Group II. Mines subordinated to the Estonian Ministry of Local-, Oil Shale- and Chemical Industry					
Ubja	(40)xx	48	57	49	54
Kivioli	470	585	731	877	902
Kohtla	153	196	244	243	250
Kukruse	96	-	-	-	-
Total group II.	759	829	1.032	1.169	1.212
Total group I and II.	5.377	6.362	6.802	7.013	8.004

x) Preliminary estimation of the 1955 output calculated or estimated on the basis of available information concerned with the output of the first five - seven months.
d) Output in dispute. Output estimated on the basis of background material or information insufficient for calculating output with reasonable exactness.
xx) No reliable information available for estimation with reasonable exactness.

Gas Distillation

3. Table 2 shows the development of gas distillation at the Kohtla-Jarve Oil Shale Treating Combine.

Table 2.

Year	Millions of m3
1949	92
1950	190
1951	246
1952	362
1953	413
1954	438
1955	469x

4. During the years 1954 and 1955 the following additional information has become available about gas distillation:

a. Computations show that the capacity of the Kohtla-Jarve - Tallinn gas pipe line is about 140 million m^3 yearly. In 1955, about 23 million m^3 of gas should have been piped to Tallinn, about 443 million m^3 to Leningrad; about three million m^3 should have been used in Kohtla-[redacted] 50X1-HUM

b. The 443 million m^3 for Leningrad seem to be near the capacity of the present Kohtla-Jarve - Leningrad pipe line. A new pipe line is under construction from the "oil shale basin" to Leningrad [redacted] 15 Oct 55). The section from the basin to Narva is said to be ready. The section from Narva to Kingissepa was to be ready before 7 Nov 55.

c. On 20 Jul 55, the first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party declared that the construction of a new gas distilling plant had started. No location was mentioned at that time. The new plant will most probably be located in Ahtme, the site of mines No. 8 and No. 10.

Gas Installation

5. By 3 Jun 55, 5,300-5,400 apartments in Tallinn were said to have been "gasified". However, a large number of these apartments (possibly as many as 1,500) were said

not to be able to use gas for various reasons, mainly probably because of the lack of ranges. Besides apartments a number of factories of the food industry and some other installations in Tallinn have been switched over to gas fuel. In Kohtla-Jarve the number of apartments supplied with gas was said to be 1,140 in March, 1955.

6. In Leningrad over 187 thousand apartments with "nearly two million working people" were said to have been supplied with the Kohtla-Jarve gas at the beginning of 1953. At the end of that year, the number of such apartments was expected to be increased to 200 thousand. Besides apartments only 27 public bath-houses, five bread factories, "over 120" children's institutions and "nearly 100" medical and educational institutions were said to be supplied with gas at that time (RH (Rahva Hael) 15 Feb 53). Estimating the total population of Leningrad as being about 2,500,000 persons, the considerably increased 1955 gas output (as compared with the beginning of 1953) of the Kohtla-Jarve combine, together with the output of the Slantsy gas plant (which started operations probably in 1954, if not at the beginning of 1955), ought to be able to cover, in 1955, all household needs of the Leningrad population. Therefore, the present construction of a second pipe line from Estonia to Leningrad,(one from Estonia to Riga is also under consideration) seem to indicate that either considerable quantities of Kohtla-Jarve and Slantsy gas have already been diverted to industrial needs in Leningrad, or expected increase in the output of the Kohtla-Jarve, Slantsy and of the future output of the new (Aktme) plant in construction is planned to be channeled to industrial use in Leningrad.

Oil Distillation

7. Table 3 gives the production figures of the years 1950-1955.

Table 3. Shale oil distillation in Estonia 1950-1955.

output in thousands of Metric Tons

Name of plant	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955x
Kohtla-Jarve Oil Shale Treating Combine	145	?	217	261	283	320
Combine "Kivioli"	124	?	148	155	194	208
Combine "Kohtla"xxx	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(23)	(23)
Total	289	?	387	439	500	551

x) Preliminary estimation on the basis of information available until October, 1955, inclusive.
xx) No reliable information available for estimation with reasonable exactness.

8. As in the case for the years 1950-1953, there is little information available for computing the output of the Kohtla combine for the years 1954-1955. The plant which is working with the Davidson rotating retorts seems to be considered out of date and the entire combine to be "frozen" in regard to oil distilling as well as mining. To a certain extent this assumption is proven by information saying that "...At present there are not more persons on work watch in the (distilling) plant than four years ago, also not one distilling retort has been installed during that period. Nevertheless the enterprise gives now to the national economy 14 per cent more oil..." Because of the lack of adequate information the production figures of the Kohtla oil distilling plant are based on an entirely free assumption that during the years 1953-1955, about 50 per cent of the shale mined in the combine were used for oil distilling. In view of the quoted information, however, the production figures for 1950-1952 have to be set at 20 thousand tons, 21 thousand tons and 22 thousand tons respectively. It should be also noted that the quoted information partly implies the possibility that some new retorts might have been installed prior to the year 1951; thus adding to the prewar capacity of about 12 thousand tons.

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[redacted]

Development of Efficiency of Labor and Self Cost Price

9. The following fragmentary and partly contradictory information is available about the development of the efficiency of labor and the self cost price during the fifth five year plan (until 3 Nov 55). It is not possible to establish whether the labor efficiency and self cost price information refers to overall labor efficiency and self cost price of the mines and plants, or to specific key operations (e g, labor efficiency of the "shale face" miners); adequate cross checking of that information is not possible:

a. Trust "Kesti Polevkivi".
"As compared with the year 1950, efficiency of labor has been increased 75 per cent, the self cost price has been lowered more than 30 per cent... [redacted] "At present the labor efficiency of the Trust is 56 per cent higher than in 1950.. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

b. Mine "Kukruse".
"As compared with the year 1950, labor efficiency has increased over 90 per cent, the self cost price of one ton of oil shale has decreased 3.25 rubles... [redacted]
"As compared with the year 1950, the self cost price has decreased 3.33 rubles for one ton, labor efficiency is at present 50.6 per cent higher... [redacted]
"During the fifth five year plan the labor efficiency has increased over 40 per cent... [redacted] 50X1-HUM

c. Mine No. 2.
"As compared with the year 1950, labor efficiency has increased three times, the self cost price has decreased 2.5 times... [redacted]
"Since the beginning of the (fifth) five year plan the self cost price has decreased over two times... [redacted] 50X1-HUM

d. Combine "Kivioli".
"During five years the labor efficiency in the (combine) has increased more than 50 per cent... [redacted]
"As compared with the year 1950, the self cost price of one ton of oil shale has decreased by 9.52 rubles..." [redacted]
"As compared with the year 1950, the self cost price in the mine has been lowered by 28 per cent..." [redacted] 50X1-HUM

e. Combine "Kohtla".
"During five years the labor efficiency of miners has increased by one third... [redacted] 50X1-HUM

f. The Kohtla-Jarve Oil Shale Treating Combine.
"The productivity of the gas chamber-ovens is at present 22 per cent higher than in 1950. The efficiency of labor has increased 83 per cent as compared with 1950... [redacted] 50X1-HUM
"This year the efficiency of labor in the combine has increased twice, the price of the household gas has decreased 2.5 times, the price of the shale oil more than by one third..."(obviously in comparison with the year 1950. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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